

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR:JES
APPROVED BY 'UR:GVEST
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
BIB:JGRONOUSKI
EUR/CE:SKLINGAMAN
EUR/SOV: KBROWN
S/S-O:MR. FLEISCHER
-----042409 250101Z /66
O P 242353Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186925

STADIS/////////
EXDIS MUNICH FOR GILMORE

E.O. 11652: GOS

TAGS: SCVL, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: RFE/RL OLYMPIC ACCREDITATION

REF: A) MUNICH 3310, B) LENINGRAD 1534

1. WE SHARED GIST OF REFTEL WITH BIB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WALTER ROBERTS WHO CONSULTED BIB CHAIRMAN GRONOUSKI AND
RFE/RL BOARD CHAIRMAN HAYES. GRONOUSKI WISHES TO CORRECT
ANY MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS REGARDING BIB POSITION ON RFE/
RL ACCREDITATION AT 1980 OLYMPICS.

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2. GRONOUSKI RECALLS THAT IN 1976 RFE/RL, WITH WHOLE-
HEARTED SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT AND BIB AND FIRM CONGRESSION-
AL BACKING EXPRESSED IN 77-0 SENATE RESOLUTION, OBTAINED
42-21 APPROVAL OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FOR RFE/
RL COVERAGE OF MONTREAL GAMES. GRONOUSKI STRESSES THAT
BIB REMAINS UNANIMOUSLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED TO ANY
PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD INFRINGE IN THE

SLIGHTEST THE RIGHT OF RFE/RL TO BE ACCREDITED TO COVER THE LAKE PLACID AND MOSCOW GAMES IN 1980, OR ANY GAMES THEREAFTER.

3. REGARDING POSSIBLE SOVIET EFFORT NEXT YEAR TO CHANGE THE IOC RULES, BIB SEES NO EVIDENCE THAT BASIC ALIGNMENTS

WITHIN THE IOC, REFLECTED IN 42 TO 21 VOTE, HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED. IT NOTES LORD KILLANIN'S OPINION THAT VOTE ON RULE CHANGE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SAME RESULT AS MONTREAL DECISION ON RFE/RL. MOREOVER, IN GRONOUSKI'S VIEW THE IOC WOULD BE DISTINCTLY ILL ADVISED TO PROMULGATE RULE CHANGE WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING RFE/RL, A CONGRESSIONALLY FUNDED ORGANIZATION, FROM THE LAKE PLACID OLYMPICS AT START OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR.

4. THE CONVERSATIONS OF A BIB OFFICIAL WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW (REF B) INDICATE THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT ASSUMING ANY CHANGE IN IOC RULES BUT ARE PREPARING TO EXCLUDE RFE/RL FROM MOSCOW GAMES ON GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT FACILITIES, ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC. PRESUMABLY ATTEMPTS WOULD ALSO BE MADE TO DENY OR QUOTE DELAY UNQUOTE VISAS. HOWEVER, GRONOUSKI STRESSES THAT THE BIB WILL FACE THIS SITUATION AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME -- I.E., IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1980 -- AND WISHES NO PRIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTEMPT TO COMPROMISE RFE/RL POSITION.

5. RFE/RL CORPORATE BOARD CHAIRMAN HAYES CONCURS FULLY WITH GRONOUSKI. HE ADDS THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY BUCHAN THAT IOC IS DESIROUS OF KEEPING ENTIRE ISSUE AT LOW LEVEL, AND THAT RADIOS HAVE NO DESIRE TO PRECIPITATE A DECISION NOW. THE RADIOS' PRIMARY INTEREST IS TO MAINTAIN UNIMPAIRED IN ANY WAY, THE RIGHT TO BE ACCREDITED.

6. BIB AND DEPARTMENT REQUEST THAT CONGEN CONSULT WITH AMEMBASSY BONN ON BEST MEANS OF COMMUNICATING GRONOUSKI'S VIEWS TO FRG AUTHORITIES AND CLARIFYING THE POSITION IN LIGHT OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE186925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSEYMOUR:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780304-0120
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780726/aaaaavsl.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc20f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 78 MUNICH 3310, 78 LENINGRAD 1534
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1903502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RFE/RL OLYMPIC ACCREDITATION
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, UR
To: MUNICH
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc20f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014